



THOREZ

More CP's Query Khrushchev

The French Communist Party yesterday criticized the present leaders of the Soviet Communist Party for failing to explain how violations of democracy developed under Stalin. A statement by the Political Bureau of the Party also took exception to the manner in which the Khrushchev speech on Stalin became known.

The London Daily Worker also criticized Khrushchev editorially, and reprinted a recent column of Howard Fast from the N. Y. Daily Worker.

At a reception in Moscow, newsmen asked Khrushchev for his opinion on Togliatti's critical article and the Soviet leader replied:

"I have heard about it but I haven't read it. But even without knowing it I am certain it was a good speech because he always makes good speeches. I am saying this because I know Togliatti. There is only one Togliatti."

The French Communist declaration published in L'Humanite said:

"The explanations given up to now on the faults of Stalin, their origin, the conditions in which they were produced, are not satisfactory. A careful Marxist analysis is indispensable to determine the combination of circumstances in which Stalin came to exercise personal power."

It pointed out that the present Soviet leaders participated in

building up the Stalin type of rule.

For some time the French Communist leaders have taken a much less critical attitude toward the Soviet Communist errors than other Communist Parties. However, in the course of pre-congress discussion, now going on in preparation for the 14th congress of the French C.P. there has been considerable criticism of the leaders by the rank and file.

In its editorial on Togliatti's article the London Daily Worker said:

"The world-wide discussion touched off by the 20th congress (of the Soviet Communist Party in Moscow, at which Stalin was denounced has unlocked a vast treas-

ure house of ideas in the working-class movement. Every one claiming allegiance to socialism is being drawn into the process.

"One of the most important consequences of ending the cult of Stalin is that people are doing a lot more thinking for themselves and for the collective movement and are doing so in a creative Marxist spirit. Togliatti's statement raises the important question of a more fundamental explanation of why violations of Communist democracy took place."

Togliatti noted, the editorial added, that "only the leaders of the Soviet Communist Party . . . can and ought to elucidate further."